

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

**The weather outside may be frightful,
but thoughts of Aruba are delightful!**



ORANJESTAD -- Richard Purdy of Michigan and his wife Debbie may be suffering through the ice storm that recently blew in from Ontario, but thoughts of being on a Aruba soon are helping them weather the storm. The couple have been vacationing on the island each January since 2003. This will be their 11th consecutive year.

Their first year they stayed at the Renaissance Marina Tower in Oranjestad, but in 2007 tried the beachside

Ocean Suites. they purchased a timeshare there in 2009, and in 2011 an additional week, with their mid-winter escape becoming the highlight of their year. They report they are very excited and pleased to be spending a full three weeks, from January 17 to Feb 7, basking in the tropical sun on Aruba's beaches, the envy of all their neighbors.

Presently, they are proudly displaying their Aruban flag on their snow and ice encrusted home in Michigan, a rare sight

indeed! They could not resist sharing this adorably incongruous photo with THE MORNING NEWS.

"We begin flying our Aruban flag each year about this time," explained Richard, "as a way to let our neighbors know we will soon be leaving for our adopted home, Aruba!"

Though the Purdy's may be adding their happy face to all their correspondence, we can't help speculate it is likely their neighbors are envisioning treating them to an emphatic, and not quite so polite and happy response!

Ice storm: from Maine to Midwest, more than 100,000 still without power



MAINE-- Monday's ice storm still has the upper Midwest and northern New England reeling, with crews expected to work into the weekend to restore power. Then, another storm could arrive.

More than 100,000 people remain without power today, days after an ice storm hit the upper Midwest and swept through western Maine. With power companies struggling through harsh winter conditions, service might not be fully restored until the weekend. In the meantime, some customers are taking refuge in hotels and emergency shelters to remain warm.

Christmas Day temperatures fell to minus-24 degrees

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out power.

The mass outages in Michigan are the largest for Christmas week in the company's 126-year history. Workers from as far away as Georgia and North Carolina are en route to Flint, Mich., which was hit hardest by the storm. To date, 17 people in the United States have died as a result of the storm, with an additional 10 in Canada

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Green Corridor to begin in earnest at the start of 2014



ORANJESTAD -- Aruba is one step closer to achieving an appropriate modern roadway to facilitate the flow of traffic between San Nicolas, Oranjestad and Noord. The Green Corridor is a plan which projects a four lane road of 15 kilometers long, which is estimated to take about two years and a half to complete. The ODINSA Group is the company in charge of executing the work. They will also be in

charge of the maintenance of the project for a minimum of 18 years.

Last Thursday, the government signed the contract with representatives of the company for the pre-work phase. Within six months they will construct a new road connecting the wharf at Barcadera with the Green Corridor and with the Ring road up to the hotel area to avoid congestion of the roads in the city center. Ac-

cording to Victor Manuel Cruz Vega, President of ODINSA, "We believe that we can do much to improve the quality of life of Arubans."

The company has an excellent track record in the execution of their projects throughout Latin America. The most recent project is the airport at El Dorado in Bogota which was completed in record time and within the budget.

Continued on page 5

Hospital Emergency service well prepared for the holidays

ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Hospital, IMSAN and the Ambulance service are well prepared for the busy holidays. Traditionally these are busy days for the Emergency Service and for the Ambulance.

Last year these three services were united to receive advice from the community. The advice received was very valuable and they did notice a difference; a reduction in the category of incidents that were reported and treated at the hospital.

Imelda de Palm, Head nurse at the Hospital has assured us that they are well prepared and that colleagues are

ready to offer extra assistance at any moment during the festive days.

De Palm has advised that we take care of how we eat and our medical regimen, if any. With respect to children and the elderly, we must ensure that they eat on time. Don't let children eat or drink in excess, especially sweet items to avoid stomach ache. Every year that has been a recurring problem.

Persons with Diabetes must be sure to take their medicines as prescribed by their doctor. If you drink, do not drive and look out for children, says Imelda de Palm.

Continued on page 3

Holiday Menu



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BUCANEER
RESTAURANT

Appetizer (Choose one)

Seafood Tempura, Shrimp Cocktail Ahoy, Fried Calamari with Marinara Sauce, Fruits of the Seven Seas, Escargot Bourguignon, Mushroom on a Deck, Pirates Treasure Soup

Pirates Menu (Choose one)

HOLIDAY PLATTER
Holiday Baked Ham, Roast Turkey served with traditional favorites, cranberry sauce, mashed potato & brown gravy, green beans almondine and herbed stuffing, Let the celebration begin!

LAND AND SEA DELIGHT
A duo of Chicken Florentine & grilled fresh catch of the day topped with seafood medley

STEAK LOVERS
Beef Tenderloin with mushroom sauce, stuffed potato and sautéed vegetables

ALBERTO'S FRESH CATCH
Fish à la Meunière served with wild rice & green beans almondine

SEAFOOD TRIO
A perfect combination of shrimps scampi, grilled scallops and fried calamari served with wild rice and fresh vegetable

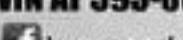
STUFFED PORKLOIN D'ANGELO
Roasted herb stuffed porkloin served with loaded potato, fresh vegetable and herbed brown gravy

CHEF SPECIAL
Chicken Piccata with spinach and topped with artichoke sauce, served wild rice and green beans almondine

Little Pirates Menu
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Hospital Emergency service well prepared for the holidays

Continued from page 2



Imelda de Palm

De Palm also advised that in addition to the Emergency Service, persons can also go to the Doctor's Clinic on duty or to their house doctor. The doctor's Clinic is situated in front of the Horacio Oduber Hospi-

tal, between the dentist's offices of De l'Isle and Provence.

Today, December 27th is a normal working day.

On January 2nd all doctors' offices will be closed, hence patients can go to the Doctors' Clinic at the Hospital for any necessary medical care.

The Head nurse also requested patients to be patient when they come to the Emergency Room. Each case must be evaluated to determine its urgency. Doctors may be very busy with a particular case and you may have to wait for your turn. Also some patients may go before others because the nurses would want to start preparing the patient before the doctor attends him.

Staff and personnel of the Hospital and IMSAN wish everyone delightful festive days, and to celebrate Christmas 2013 and the new year as safely as possible and in good company!

Aruba welcomes veteran visitors for a love to replace snow for sand

ORANJESTAD -- For thousands who live in cold, snowy places, their optimal "White Christmas" is to be surrounded by the sugar white sands of Aruba's beaches, and they migrate to the island for two weeks at the end of every year.

The Aruba Beach Club counts many such "snowbirds" among his populace during the holidays, and two large groups, one traveling south from New York and Chicago, the other north from Medellin, Colombia, cannot imagine sharing this time with family anywhere else.

Six families from the U.S. met on Aruba's beaches 35 years ago, and from their Aruban acquaintanceship, strong bonds of friendship were forged. Over the years, Terry and Steve Hamburg, Sy and Linda Cohen, Steve and Judy Siperstein, Eileen and Tony Apicella and Manny and Judy Hoffman have shared landmark events, such as weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and christenings as their families grew. This included the sad loss of Manny and Judy, who both passed on in 2012. While on island for the last two weeks of the year, they also share their time and adventures with Leon and Sharon Segal, who for are also a part of their "Aruban clan." The group typifies many who occupy the rooms of the Aruba Beach Club and Casa Del Mar during the holiday season.

"We originally all became friends around the baby pool," recalls Linda. "Our children ranged from two to 15 years old. Now it is the grandchildren who splash in the pool, but we grandparents get to enjoy the beach and watch the others take on the baby watch."



Holidays on Aruba are a tradition with two younger generations



The NY Chicago Bunch

Their extended family, with all three generations, now consists of three generations and numbers sixty-five of all ages.

That is quite a lot of beach

territory to occupy, which is not including when they have various nieces and nephews join them on Aruba.

Continued on page 5



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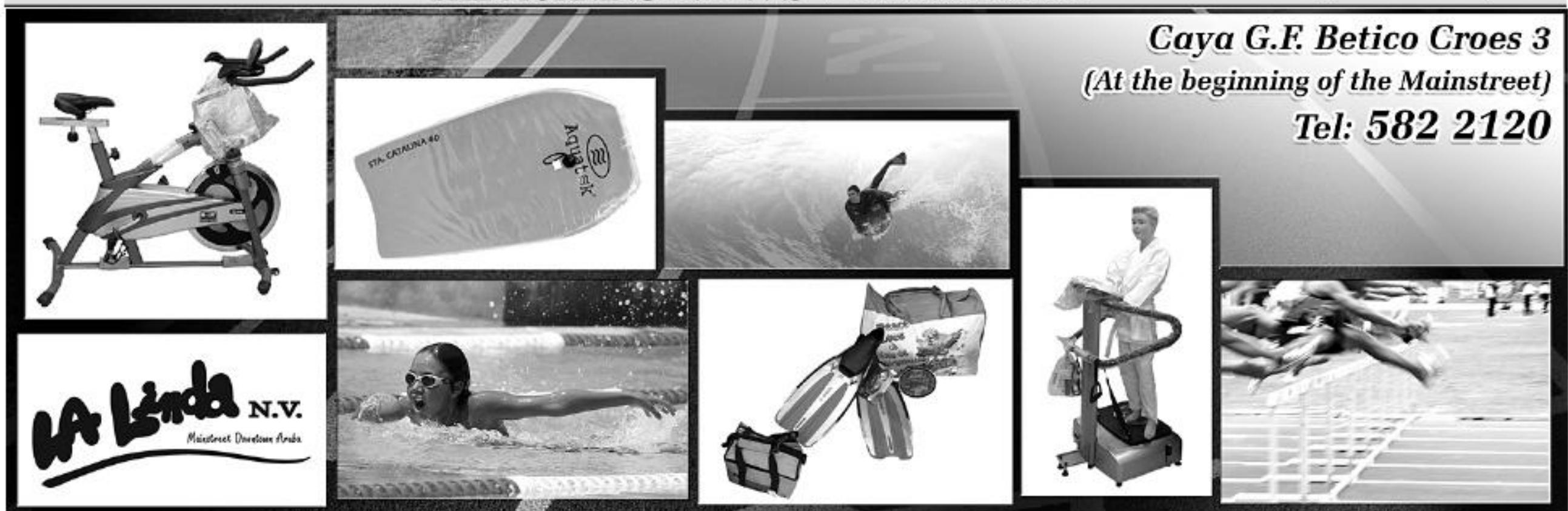
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Big wins at Stellaris Casino with Progressive Bingo Jackpot



PALM BEACH – Big wins and happy faces at the Stellaris Casino on December 12th, 2013 during the Feel Good Bingo event. After a

few months the Progressive Bingo Jackpot fell with the amount of 42,917.65 Aruban florins.

A very emotional Mrs.

Almira Franken could not believe her eyes after realizing she had the winning bingo card. She called BINGO within 50 calls and took home the big Progressive jackpot of 42,917.65 Aruban florins.

The new Progressive Bingo Jackpot starts at 25,106.65 Aruban florins. Every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday casino guests can participate for 15 Aruban florins, which including four cards for ten games, with \$2125 in guaranteed cash prizes, including the Progressive Jackpot, Golden & Silver Power Ball that also includes a progressive jackpot.

The Stellaris Casino informs all bingo players that the last bingo for 2013 was on December 22nd, 2013 and the first bingo for 2014 will be January 4th, 2013.

For upcoming specials and promotion, please visit the Stellaris Casino Facebook page or www.stellariscasino.com to stay updated.

Government helps preserve Festival di Dande.... 40th edition in 2014!



ORANJESTAD -- In connection with the 40th edition of Festival di Dande, the Minister of Culture Otmar Oduber together with the Department of Culture (DCA) and the organizers of the Children and Youth Festival di Dande Ray-Anne Hernandez and the Festival di Dande Harry Croes, and the National Day Celebration Commission President Robert Maduro. They held a press

conference to invite the entire community to support one of the oldest celebrations of folklore and culture of Aruba.

Following different conversations with DCA as well as with the Commission in charge of the festival, the Minister of Culture decided to lend support to this 40th edition of the Festival di Dande and other cultural festivals in the future.

Continued on page 5

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Green Corridor to begin in earnest ...

Continued from page 2



According to schedule, the next phase of the construction is set for July 2014 for a period of two and a half years. The Green Corridor will connect all barrios on our island beginning at the Spiral Rotunda at the Airport to the

rotunda in San Nicolas. The northern part will connect with the Ring road at Mahuma.

This project has two primary objectives. The first objective is to alleviate the daily traffic, but also to beautify

and improve the quality of life in the barrios on the route between Oranjestad and the city center. At different points there will be public areas for recreation... creating a five star island for everyone!

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Aruba welcomes veteran...

Continued from page 3

Having religiously returned to Aruba annually for all these years, the group quickly noted the distinct changes in Aruba's infrastructure from the moment they arrived at the airport. All the families uniformly approve, particularly in the beautification of Oranjestad, and they think the new tram is "absolutely terrific, we can't wait to try it out. We are very impressed" Like many long-time visitors, they are at times nostalgic for the sleepy little island that first won their hearts. They expressed they would like to see a curb on all the building and development, from this point, believing what increases now exist are more than sufficient.

Terry and Steve Hamburg discovered the Aruba Beach Club and their friends when they were bumped from an overbooked Concorde Resort (now the Westin) in 1979. "We ended up at the ABC, and have no regrets," explains Steve. "Everyone was asking us 'Do you own here?' and we responded



Jeff Cohen shares greetings with the Hamburg kids back in Chicago

"own what?" We had never heard of timesharing and had no idea what it was. We were here from Chicago with our friends the Hoffmans, and our kids, and we both immediately purchased these two weeks at the end of the year. It has been our Christmas and New Year's tradition ever since. I can't imagine being anywhere else and without our friends from the Beach Club to welcome the new year. We have a beachfront room that opens out directly to where we set up, and all our conveniences are only a few steps away."

Government helps preserve Festival di Dande....

Continued from page 4

This is a celebration that our seniors celebrated for many generations.

DCA is currently delineating their management. They have already stipulated that in April 2014 there will be a congress on culture on Aruba. In this manner they want to offer all cultural actors the necessary support so as to be able to introduce this important part of our society into our education and schools, according to the Minister of

Culture.

The Minister indicated that the government wants to have the Festival di Dande and our 60th Carnival documented by DCA to preserve this as part of our cultural and historic heritage. This has to become a part of the curriculum of our schools. Cultural themes must be introduced to our children so they can learn of the roots of our Aruban culture.

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Truce near Damascus broken as warplanes bomb Aleppo

BEIRUT (AFP) - A day-old truce in a besieged rebel-held town near Damascus broke down yesterday as Syrian warplanes bombed the divided northern city of Aleppo for a 12th straight day, activists said.

By Wednesday, the Aleppo air blitz that began on December 15 had killed at least 422 people, mostly civilians, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group relying on activists and other sources inside the war-torn country.

In Moadamiyat al-Sham, near the capital, clashes broke out on yesterday afternoon, a day after opposition and regime sources announced a truce for the town, which had been under a suffocating army siege for a year.

The opposition blamed President Bashar al-Assad's troops for breaking the truce.

"They opened heavy machine-gun fire without any reason. It means there are people from the regime who don't want the siege on our town to be lifted. They are trying to end the truce in any way possible," Ahmad, a local activist, told AFP via the Internet.

The Syrian Revolution General Commission, a network of activists on the ground, confirmed the fighting, and said the army was

sending "heavy reinforcements" towards the town.

On Wednesday rebels raised the national flag above the town in accordance with a ceasefire deal that was supposed to allow food in, but Ahmad said none had arrived.

Negotiations were underway for another truce in Barzeh, northern Damascus, according to activist Emad al-Barzawi, but he said "there has been no decision yet."

Barzeh has come under frequent bombardment in recent months, forcing hundreds of residents to flee.

In Aleppo, the country's second city and onetime commercial hub, the airforce kept up its offensive a day after 12 people were killed in aerial attacks in and around the city, said the Observatory.

Regime aircraft launched a fresh attack using TNT-packed barrels against the city's Hanano district, and another air strike against Daret Ezza in the surrounding province, according to the Observatory.

The European Union, the United States and the Arab League have condemned the air force's use of barrel bombs, and the US-based Human Rights Watch has described their use as "unlawful" because they do not discriminate between civilians and fighters.



MORINGHEM -- ERDF (Electricity Network Distribution France) workers repair a power line on an electricity pylon on December 26, 2013 in Moringhem, northern France, after the passage of storm Dirk. Gale-force winds and pounding rain lashed Britain and France on December 24, killing at least five people, disrupting Christmas travel and leaving tens of thousands without power. (AFP PHOTO)

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Philippine police arrest three linked to Mexico drug cartel

MANILA (AFP) - Philippine anti-drug police said yesterday they had arrested three people connected to Mexico's feared Sinaloa drug cartel while they were storing narcotics.

The two Filipinos and one Filipino-Chinese were arrested in a raid on Wednesday on a cock-fighting farm in south Manila, after weeks of intelligence operations by local and US anti-narcotics personnel.

Seized in the raid were 84 kilograms (185 pounds) of methamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as "ice" or "shabu", as well as two firearms, said police officials.

However the actual members of the Mexican cartel were not there during the raid, said Senior Superintendent Bartolome Tobias, head of a drugs task force.

"We have previously had reports that the Mexicans are here and... this is the first time

we have confirmed that indeed, the Mexicans are already here," he told reporters.

Tobias did not say how they knew the Sinaloa cartel was involved. He said a Filipino-American named Gary Torres and two Mexicans known as "Jaime" and "Joey" were being sought in connection with the seized drugs.

President Benigno Aquino's spokesman Herminio Coloma said the government would act promptly against the cartel.

"Of course, the government will seek to arrest these law-breakers, stop their crimes, and protect the citizenry," he said.

It was not clear why the Mexican cartel would have entered the Philippines. The national police chief, Director-General Alan Purisima, said the country's strategic location and the difficulty of guarding the archipelago's maritime borders made it easy to infiltrate.

"It is part of our investigation how the cartel was able to penetrate our country. We are still in the process of determining what is the history behind the arrest of these people," Purisima said, adding that the Chinese drug syndicates may be colluding with the Mexicans.

A spokesman for the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Derrick Carreon, said the entry of the Mexican cartel was based on "intelligence reports" but did not elaborate.

The Mexican embassy declined to comment.

The Sinaloa cartel is reputed to be the largest source of illegal drugs to the United States. Its main leader, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, escaped from a Mexican prison in 2001. He is now America's most wanted drug trafficker, as well as being considered by Forbes as the most powerful criminal on the planet.

Is Bieber retiring? His tweet says he is...



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Teen pop megastar Justin Bieber has set Twitter ablaze with a message suggesting he may be stepping away from the stage -- just as his new movie hits theaters on Christmas Day.

"My beloved believers I'm officially retiring," the 19-year-old Bieber said on Twitter to his nearly 48 million followers.

The message has been retweeted more than 240,000 times and comments from fans flooded the globally popular messaging site. But a subsequent tweet from the Canadian teen idol left some doubt about his future plans.

"The media talks a lot about me. They make up a lot of lies and want me to fail but I'm never leaving you, being a believer is a lifestyle," he wrote.

Then, Bieber tweeted a trailer for his latest movie, "Justin Bieber's Believe," which opens in US theaters on Wednesday, and "Merry Christmas everyone. Be kind to one another."

He told a Los Angeles radio station last week that he was "quitting music, quitting everything," saying "I'm going to go (play) golf."

The singer has recently run into trouble during his "Believe" tour in both Brazil and Australia, where he was accused of spraying graffiti on hotel walls.

He caused outrage in Argentina by stepping on an Argentine flag thrown onto the stage during a concert. And he was photographed in Rio de Janeiro leaving a notorious brothel.

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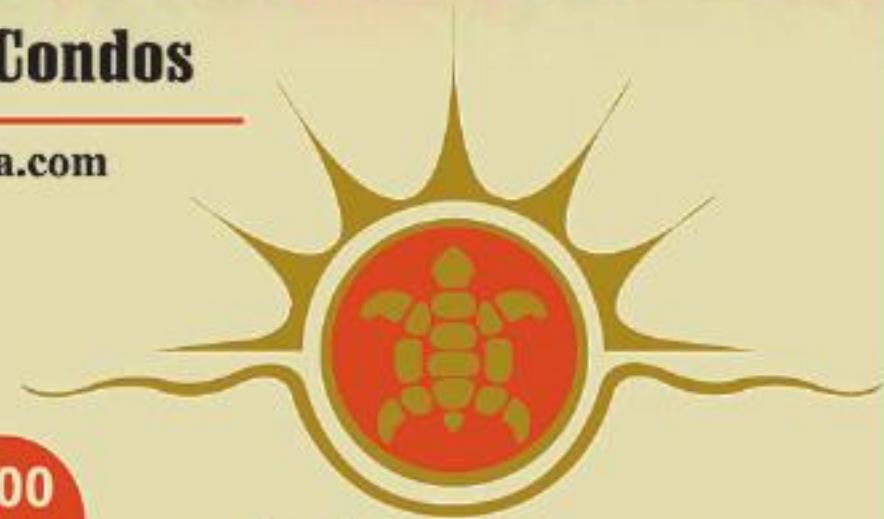
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Dubai promises record-breaking New Year's Eve firework show

DUBAI (AFP) - Dubai has promised to celebrate New Year's Eve with a record-breaking extravaganza featuring over 400,000 fireworks, the largest display the world has ever seen, its government said.

The United Arab Emirates city state, home to the world's tallest tower, largest man-made island and one of the world's busiest airports, will "break the Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Firework Display,'" a govern-

ment statement said.

The six-minute show over two of its manmade islands -- The Palm Jumeirah and The World -- will "feature over 400,000 colourful fireworks and a series of amazing scenes designed exclusively for the event and set to a specially choreographed musical soundtrack."

The display will be overseen by more than 200 pyrotechnicians, and the fireworks will be launched from 400 locations, it added.

Over the past few years, Dubai has been vying to become a permanent fixture on the world map of New Year celebrations, staging spectacular shows since the opening of the 828-metre (2,716-foot) Burj Khalifa tower in 2010.

The glitzy Gulf city, which has already established itself as a global hub for air transport and transit trade, as well as a regional financial centre, beat off opposition from Brazil, Russia and Turkey on November 27 to win the right

to host the five-yearly World Expo trade fair in 2020.

Dubai's economy was hit in 2009 by the global financial crisis, which caused its growing real estate sector to shed half its value.

But the economy of the emirate has made a strong comeback.

With its reputation as a liberal city in a conservative region, the Gulf city is home to an expat population of more than 200 nationalities.

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One of the most famous Selfies of the Year: US President Obama takes a selfie with British Prime Minister David Cameron and Denmark's Prime Minister Helle Thorning Schmidt at Mandela's funeral

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Stuck on a ledge halfway up a 3,000-foot (1,000-meter) cliff in Oman, his climbing rope sliced in two by sharp rocks, Jimmy Chin did what anyone else would have done in his predicament.

He took a selfie.

"I had some time to figure out what I was going to do," said Chin, a National Geographic photographer whose images of extreme climbing by the Straits of Hormuz appear in the magazine's January issue.

"That's when I took the selfie," he told AFP. "It was one of those moments when, 'Well, I'm a Nat Geo photographer. I had to document (the moment). It was pretty classic."

Self-portraiture has been

around for centuries, but the global proliferation of smartphones with built-in digital cameras -- plus the ability to share photos instantly on social media -- has taken the genre to a new level.

With 2013 coming to a close, the publishers of the hallowed Oxford English Dictionary, arguably the final authority in anglophone lexicography, declared selfie to be their "word of the year."

"Selfie: noun, informal. A photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically one taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website," according to Oxford. "Also: selfy. Plural: selfies."

Internet search provider Yahoo meanwhile estimates that in 2014, about 880 billion photographs will be taken.

That's 123 photos for every man, woman and child on Earth. Many will be selfies.

In Britain, a survey for Samsung found that 17 percent of men, and 10 percent of women, take selfies because "they enjoy taking good-looking photos of themselves."

"I think 'selfie' is a term of endearment for the self, in a way," said Sarah Kennel, curator of photography at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, who admits to taking the odd selfie herself.

"It does reflect a kind of narcissism in our culture," she told AFP.

US President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron got tongues wagging when they took a selfie with Danish leader Helle Thorning Schmidt

at Nelson Mandela's memorial service in South Africa.

"What an incredible sign of the times," children's photographer Sarah Sloboda, author of the e-book "How to Take the Best Selfies," told AFP.

"That's the kind of thing you can put in a time capsule to represent this period."

No one knows if Obama and friends had even heard of Selfies at Funerals, an equally controversial Tumblr compilation of, well, selfies taken at funerals, mainly by young people.

"When a teen tweets out a funeral selfie, their friends don't castigate them," its founder Jason Feifer explained in Britain's Guardian newspaper.

"They understand that their friend, in their own way, is expressing an emotion they may not have words for. It's a visual language that older people -- even those like me, in their 30s -- simply don't speak."

The year also saw Pope Francis in a selfie with teenagers at the Vatican, as well as pop diva Beyonce turning up in a smiling fan's selfie in Australia, to cite a couple of Time magazine's "11 most memorable selfies of 2013."

Meanwhile, in London, the National Portrait Gallery has just put out a call for selfies to be included in a panel discussion on January 16 entitled "The Curated Ego: What

Makes a Good Selfie?"

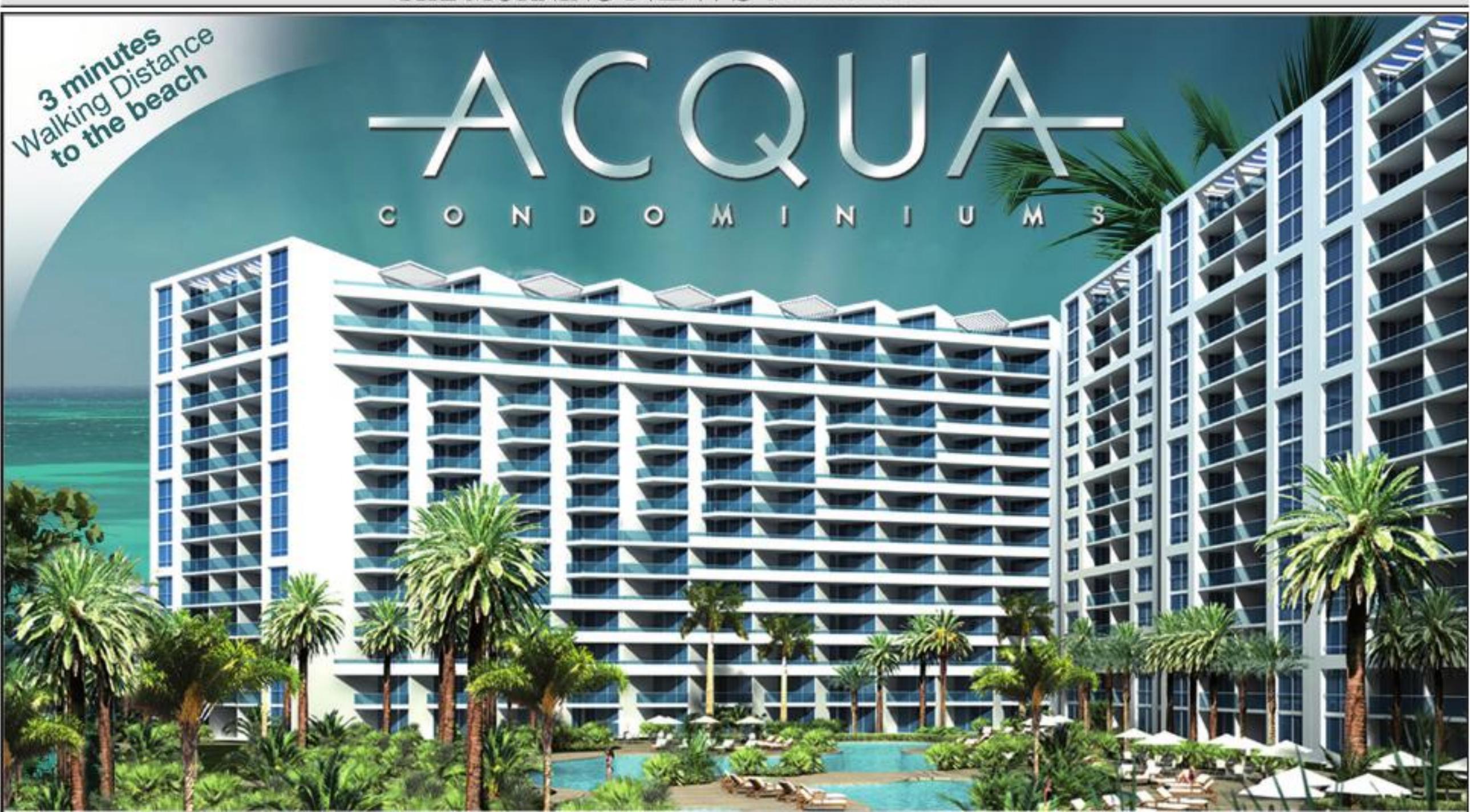
In announcing the event, organizers identified Russian Grand Duchess Anastasia as "one of the first teenagers to take a selfie." That was in 1914, when she was 13. Alas, she had no Facebook or Twitter account to share it on.

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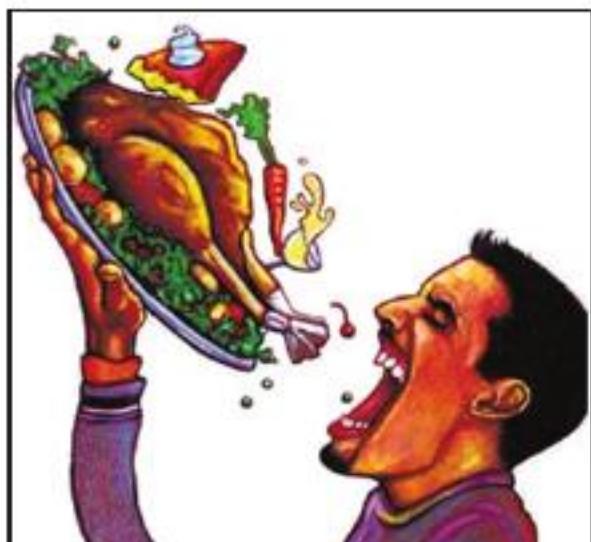
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Tips for Healthy Holiday Eating



1. Be realistic. Don't try to lose pounds during the holidays, instead try to maintain your current weight.

2. Plan time for exercise. Exercise helps relieve holiday stress and prevent weight gain. A moderate and daily increase in exercise can help partially offset increased holiday eating. Try 10- or 15-minute brisk walks twice a day.

3. Don't skip meals. Before leaving for a party, eat a light snack like raw vegetables or a piece of fruit to curb your appetite. You will be less tempted to over-indulge.

4. Survey party buffets before filling your plate. Choose your favorite foods and skip your least favorite. Include vegetables and fruits to keep your plate balanced.

5. Eat until you are satisfied, not stuffed. Savor your favorite holiday treats while eating small portions. Sit down, get comfortable, and enjoy.

6. Be careful with beverages. Alcohol can lessen inhibitions and induce overeating; non-alcoholic beverages can be full of calories and sugar.

Enjoy the holidays, plan a time for activity, incorporate healthy recipes into your holiday meals, and don't restrict yourself from enjoying your favorite holiday foods. In the long run, your mind and body will thank you.

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Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of October 2013: Money supply went up

ORANJESTAD -- The Centrale Bank van Aruba concludes in its Monthly Bulletin of October 2013 that money supply went up by Afl. 46.9 million to Afl. 3,338.0 million, resulting from a rise in net domestic assets of Afl. 132.1 million and an Afl. 85.2 million decline in net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings).

The rise in the domestic component of money supply was associated with increases in domestic credit and non-credit related balance sheet items of, respectively, Afl. 125.6 million and Afl. 6.5 million. Domestic credit grew largely as a result of an Afl. 117.6 million decrease in the net claims of the public sector on the banking sector, stemming mostly from a decline in government deposits of Afl. 115.0 million. Claims on the private sector expanded by Afl. 8.0 million, attributed to increases in housing mortgages and consumer credit of, respectively, Afl. 8.0 million (+0.8 percent) and Afl. 2.3 million (+0.4 percent). These increases were partially offset by a downturn in commercial loans of Afl. 2.3 million (-0.2 percent). The increase in non-credit related balance sheet items was brought about by clearing transactions.

The fall in net foreign assets was caused mainly by payments for the import of goods and debt services related to matured government bonds, which were partly mitigated by receipts for the export of services, including tourism.

In October 2013, the consumer price index (CPI) registered a decline of 1.9 percent, compared to the corresponding month in 2012. The factors causing this drop were housing, clothing & footwear, and transport. Excluding the effect of food and energy (which partly impacts the housing and transport components), the core CPI rose by 0.3 percent, compared to October 2012. The 12-month average inflation rate declined by 2.9 percent in October 2013.

In October 2013, the number of stay-over visitors reached 76,681, which is 16.8 percent (+11,052 visitors) higher than in October 2012, owing to surges in visitors from Latin America and North America of, respectively, 9,672 (+60.9 percent) and 1,646 (+4.2 percent). The growth in the Latin America market was attributed mostly to increases in visitors from Venezuela (+8,537 visitors or 85.9 percent) and Brazil (+541 visitors or 35.7 percent). The growth in the North American

market was due to an upturn in arrivals from United States (+2,127 visitors or 5.8 percent), while arrivals from Canada fell (-481 visitors or 17.9 percent). The European market, on the other hand, noted a slight drop of 247 arrivals (-3.6 percent), due predominantly to a fall in arrivals from the United Kingdom (-490 visitors or -36.6 percent), compared to October 2012. The number of cruise visitors grew by 17,999 (+68.2 percent) in October 2013, compared to the same month of the previous year. The number of ship calls increased to 24 in October 2013, up from 18 in October 2012.

In October 2013, tax revenue amounted to Afl. 82.2 million, compared to Afl. 81.3 million in the same month of the previous year. This slight increase in tax revenue was mostly related to upturns in import duties (+Afl. 2.8 million), profit tax (+Afl. 2.6 million), excises on tobacco (+Afl. 1.6 million), and gambling licenses (+Afl. 1.3 million). These increases were counterbalanced by drops in revenue from wage tax, income tax, and transfer tax of, respectively, Afl. 3.0 million, Afl. 3.0 million, and Afl. 1.6 million. Turnover tax (B.B.O.) edged up by Afl. 0.2 million, while foreign exchange tax fell slightly by Afl. 0.1 million.

PARIS (AFP) - The number of registered jobseekers in France rose by 17,800 in November to 3.29 million, the labour ministry said yesterday, challenging government claims to have bucked a trend of spiralling unemployment.

Labour Minister Michel Sapin claimed President François Hollande's pledge to curb growing joblessness by the year's end was still on track, if part-time and short-term workers were added to the total number of jobseekers.

That number actually fell by 6,900 to 4.87 million if those workers were factored in, prompting Sapin to say that the reversal of the upward trend is "well and truly under course in the fourth quarter."

A slight fall in the number of unemployed for October, of 20,500, had raised government hopes France's years-long jobless crisis may be finally drawing to an end.

The Socialist leader, who is under fierce pressure to tackle unemployment with polls showing his approval ratings the lowest of any president in modern French history, claimed last month he had met his electoral pledge to halt the rise in joblessness by the end of this year.

Hollande's reaction to the latest figures was guarded. He simply said the new data "did not modify the trend".

Nevertheless, he asserted that "the reversal of the unemployment curve, which is something I had set out to do, has truly begun."

He said the number of those with no employment whatsoever had been rising by 30,000 per month in the first quarter of 2013, and that the figure had fallen steadily during the year.

"This movement, to be significant, must follow month after month," he said. "It's a daily battle."

Amazon to compensate customers for late gifts

NEW YORK (AFP) - Amazon said yesterday it would give \$20 gift cards and pay shipping costs for customers affected by problems at UPS and FedEx that delayed some Christmas package deliveries.

The Amazon pledge came

after UPS in particular came under fire for late packages despite vows from retailers to meet a December 25 deadline.

Some customers took to Twitter to voice their displeasure, likening one or both delivery giants to the "Grinch who stole Christmas."

Amazon pointed the finger squarely at the delivery companies. The online retail giant did not give estimates for the number of affected shoppers.

MONDAY'S Crossword Answer

ALLEN		HUN
SEETO		ABUSE
SAGAS		GAMES
INA	HINDERS	
SEC	TEE	
TRY	PEW	ADD
	GEM	NEA
GASMASK		CNN
RIPER	ETHIC	
IRONY	GOOSE	
PST	SORER	



LONDON (AFP) -- Shoppers queue in the early morning outside Selfridges department store in central London, on December 26, 2013, in search of a bargain in the post Christmas Boxing Day sales.



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PICKLES



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CALVIN and HOBBES



CROSSWORD



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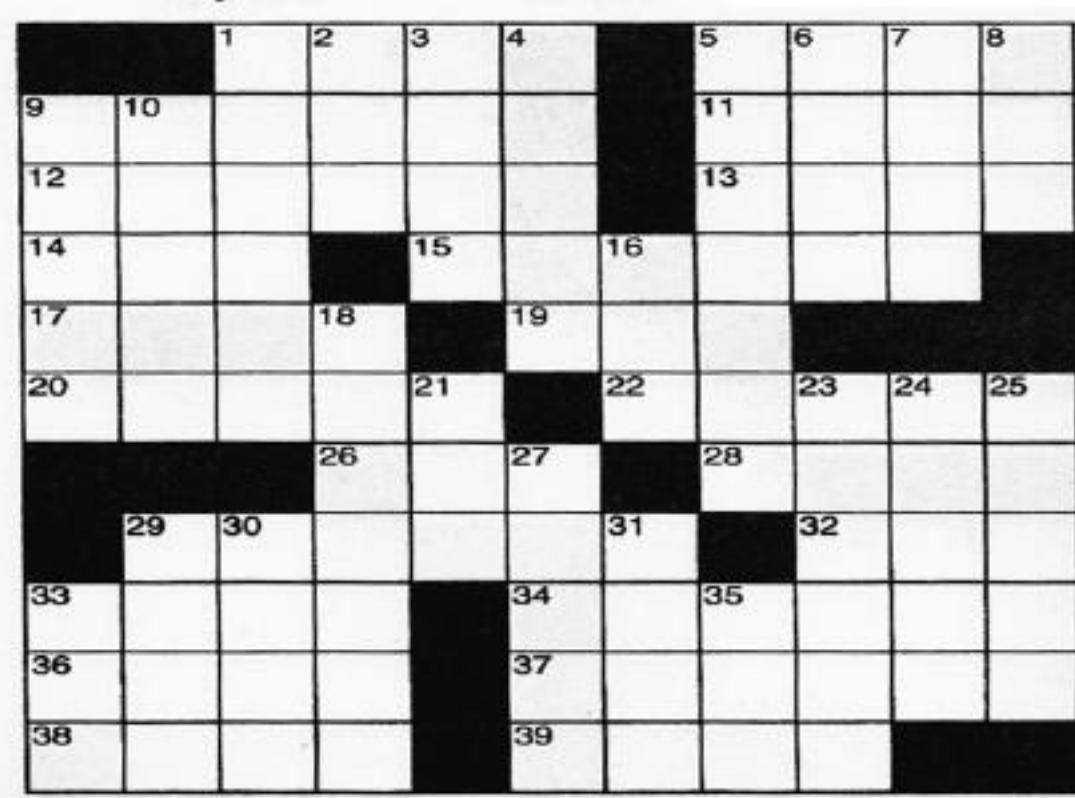
ACROSS

1 Low voice
5 Not narrow
9 Basic food
11 Gershwin and Levin
12 Maybelline rival
13 IX
14 Hockey great
Bobby
15 Mother (saintly nun)
17 Couple
19 Bro's sib
20 Trans-parent
22 Damon et al.
26 Egg drink
28 Butcher's offering
29 Recording studio controls
32 "Me," to Miss Piggy
33 Brownish purple
34 Frozen pendant
36 German "mister"
37 Tycoon

Trump

38 French islands
39 Fly-killing action

DOWN
1 Peter Pan's creator
2 Big monkey
3 Blind strip
4 Tennis champ
Monica
5 Winter apple
6 Showy



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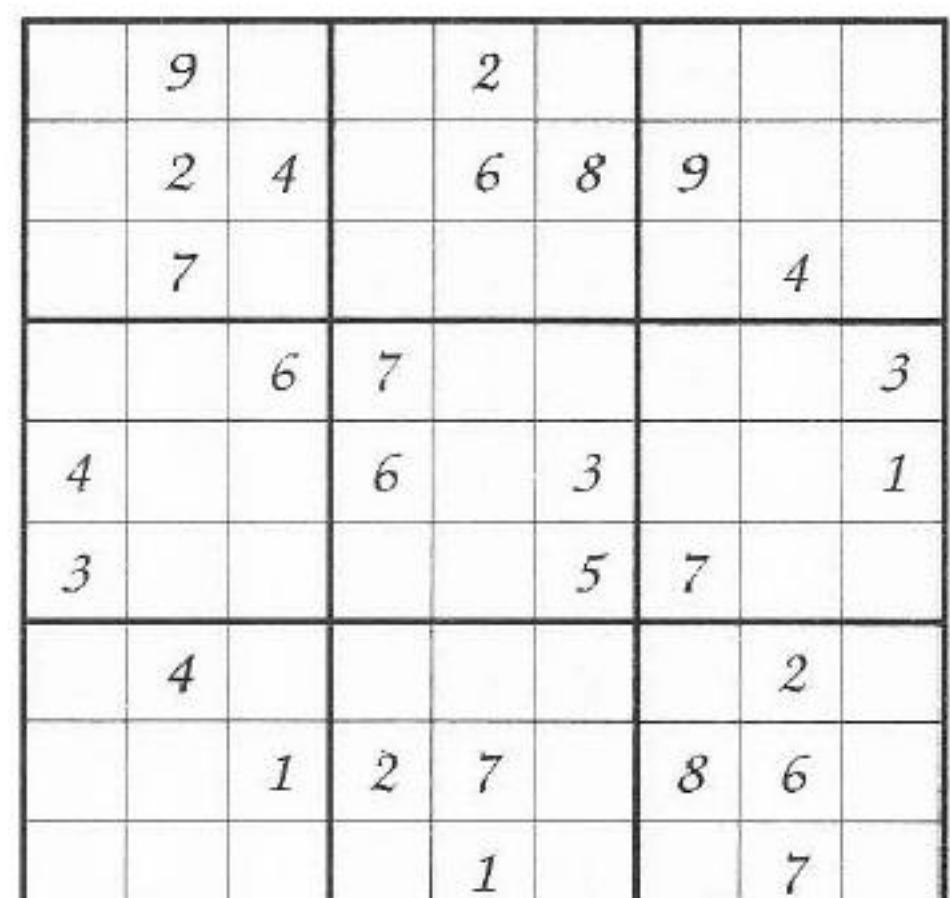
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7								4
	6	7						
4			6		3			1
3				5	7			
	4						2	
	1	2	7		8	6		
				1	7			

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the

menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2

eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, or All-you-can-eat pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$7.99! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aaron's secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open from 8am to 10pm-ish Sunday - Thursday. For those late night diners, 5 Burgers is open until 3AM-ish on Friday & Saturdays! Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches! Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Discover authentic Aruban cuisine at The Queen's



Welcome

Enjoy a true taste of Aruba without having to travel in the charming surroundings of The Queen's Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall. Your host, Varella Innocencia has brought her very popular Oranjestad eatery to Palm Beach, showcasing authentic local cuisine only a short walk away from the major resorts.

The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what

been in her family for generations. As Varella says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home.

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

Be sure to try Luisa's acclaimed "Carni Stoba di Machi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," or their fresh, whole snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house,



a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe preparation of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt,



Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen



this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com/>.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please. The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.

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Arsenal, United enjoy Boxing Day comebacks

LONDON (AFP) - Arsenal returned to the Premier League summit on Thursday after Theo Walcott scored twice as Arsene Wenger's side came from behind to win 3-1 at West Ham United.

Arsenal spurned several first-half chances at Upton Park and they were punished early in the second period when Carlton Cole put the hosts in front after Wojciech Szczesny spilled a shot from Kevin Nolan.

However, Walcott struck twice in three minutes to turn the game around, squeezing a low shot past West Ham goalkeeper Adrian in the 68th minute and then heading home a cross from substitute Lukas Podolski.

Podolski was making his first appearance since August after a hamstring injury and he marked his comeback with a goal in the 79th minute, drilling home from Olivier Giroud's lay-off.

Victory sent Arsenal three points above former leaders Liverpool, who visit fourth-place Manchester City later on Thursday, while West Ham slumped to second-bottom.

Chelsea also leapfrogged Liverpool, moving up to second place by beating Swansea City 1-0 in one of the day's 10 traditional Boxing Day fixtures.

Belgian winger Eden Hazard scored the game's only goal in the 29th minute at

Stamford Bridge, cutting in from the left in familiar fashion before letting fly with a low drive that squeezed beneath Gerhard Tremmel.

Everton's hopes of making further ground on the Champions League contenders were thwarted, however, as they crashed to a 1-0 defeat at home to bottom club Sunderland.

Ki Sung-yueng scored the game's only goal from the penalty spot in the 25th minute, after Everton goalkeeper Tim Howard was sent off for a foul on the South Korea international.

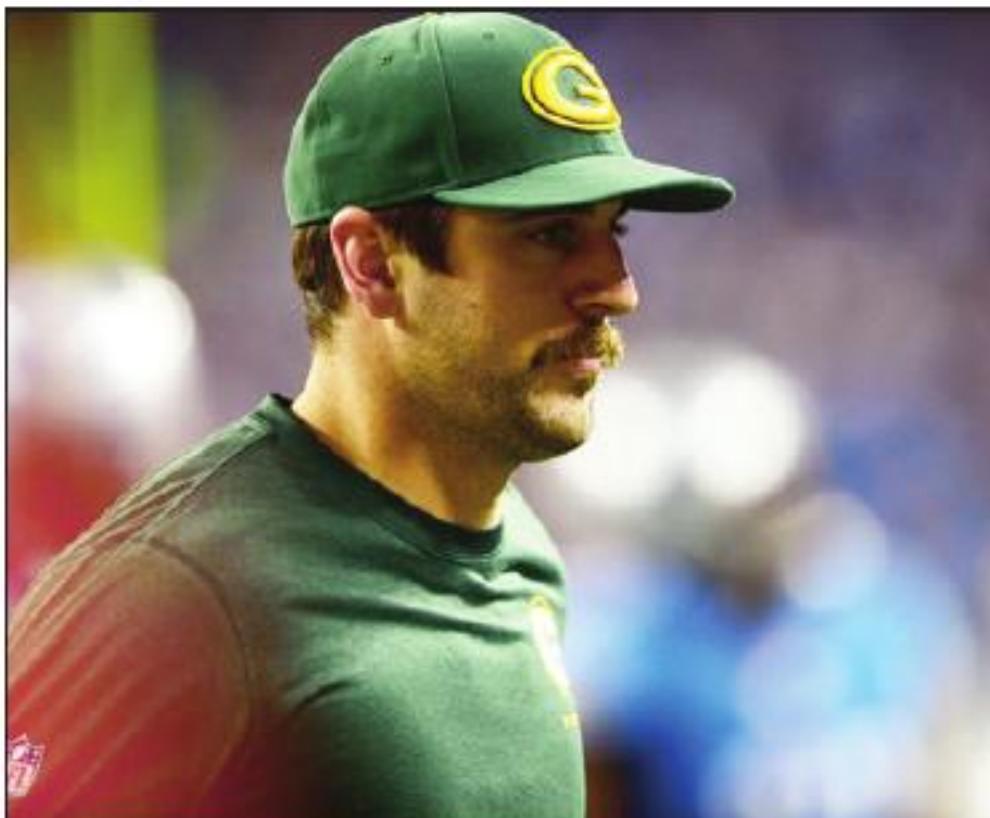
It was Sunderland's first away win since April and left Gus Poyet's men three points from safety.

Manchester United doggedly overturned a two-goal deficit to win 3-2 against Hull City at the KC Stadium and register their fifth consecutive win in all competitions.

Early goals from James Chester and David Meyler gave Hull a 2-0 lead, only for Chris Smalling and Wayne Rooney to bring United level before half an hour had been played.

Rooney's goal, a sumptuous volley, was his 150th for the club in the top flight and he contributed to the winner in the 66th minute by pressuring Chester, a one-time United youth player, to put through his own goal.

Rodgers ready to return for Green Bay showdown at Chicago



GREEN BAY (AFP) - Aaron Rodgers, who missed the past seven games for Green Bay with a broken collarbone, was named Thursday as the Packers' starting quarterback for Sunday's crucial NFL game at Chicago.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy said Rodgers has made steady improvement in workouts over the past three

LeBron, Durant pace All-Star ballot leaders

NEW YORK (AFP) - Four-time NBA Most Valuable Player LeBron James and NBA scoring leader Kevin Durant are the top ballot choices in fan voting for the 2014 NBA All-Star Game announced Thursday.

James, who turns 29 on Monday, has the top vote total at 854,105 after guiding the Miami Heat to the NBA title the past two seasons. He is averaging 25.2 points a game this season as the Heat are off to a 22-6 start.

Durant is second overall and leading the Western Conference at 850,728 votes. He is averaging 28.1 points a game for the Oklahoma City Thunder, who are level with Portland and Indiana for the NBA's best record at 23-5.

The 63rd NBA All-Star Game will be played Februa-

weeks, including a Thursday practice, and will be set to face the Bears, against whom he suffered the injury in a November 4 home loss.

"It's time," McCarthy said. "Aaron is ready to play."

Chicago leads the NFC North division at 8-7 with Green Bay next at 7-7 with one draw. Sunday's winner claims the division crown and a playoff spot. The season will be over for Sunday's loser.

"It's time to play football," McCarthy said. "This situation has been discussed thoroughly. He just wants to focus on playing football."

"Aaron is a seasoned pro. He knows the offense. It's just getting back into the fine details. I'm not really concerned about that."

The Packers are 5-3 with Rodgers guiding the offensive unit and 2-4 with one draw in his absence with backup Matt Flynn directing the attack and serving as a backup in case Rodgers is hurt again Sunday.

Rodgers has completed 168-of-251 passes for 2,218 yards and 15 touchdowns with four interceptions this season.

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If it is a sport we will show it!

Lions sign US star Isles, 'rugby's fastest man'

DETROIT (AFP) - Carlin Isles, a 24-year-old US sevens winger touted as the fastest man in rugby, was signed to a practice squad receiver contract Thursday by the NFL's Detroit Lions.

The Lions, eliminated from American football playoff contention last Sunday, have been known for unusual moves in trying to land talent, bringing in a German player last year and Norwegian kicker Havard Rugland earlier this year after seeing him on a YouTube video.

Isles, dubbed the fastest man in rugby by Rugby magazine last year, underwent a tryout session for the Lions on Monday that included running the 40-yard dash in 4.22 seconds.



A spot opened for Isles after the Lions promoted tight end Matt Veldman from the practice squad to the active roster to replace injured Brandon Pettigrew ahead of Detroit's season-ending game Sunday at Minnesota.

"You're looking for athletes," Lions coach Jim Schwartz said. "It hasn't been unusual to see basketball players transition to the NFL. That's not just recently, that

goes way back.

"Even track guys like Bob Hayes and Renaldo Nehemiah. An athlete's an athlete. There are skills that you can develop, and if you see something you like then you can work with him."

Isles, whose Ohio hometown of Massillon is a famed US high school gridiron hotbed and near the American Football Hall of Fame, was a sprint star and American football player in college before switching to rugby.

He plays for the Gentlemen of Aspen club team and has 11 caps for the USA Rugby Sevens squad.

Other NFL clubs have turned outside the usual US collegiate feeder system for talent this year.

Kenyan-born Daniel Adongo has played two games at linebacker this season for the playoff-bound Indianapolis Colts after playing for South Africa's Southern Kings in Super 15 rugby last season.

Cowboys owner Jones still hoping Romo plays

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Dallas owner Jerry Jones still hopes Tony Romo will lead the Cowboys in a do-or-die NFL clash with Philadelphia, with the quarterback reportedly receiving an epidural injection to relieve pain and inflammation.

Romo's back was clearly troubling him as he rallied the Cowboys to a one-point victory over Washington on Sunday that kept Dallas' playoff hopes alive.

In his weekly radio show on Tuesday, Jones said backup quarterback Kyle Orton -- who hasn't started a game since 2011 -- would be ready to play if necessary, but that Romo would play if doctors agree.

"Pain won't stop him," Jones said. "Pain as a symptom of something that a doctor might say, 'we don't advise him to play,' that's different."

Jones declined to give details of Romo's injury.

ESPN.com reported that the Cowboys signal-caller has a herniated disk in his lower back and received an epidural injection to relieve pain and inflammation.

Romo's back was clearly troubling him as he rallied the Cowboys to a one-point victory over Washington on Sunday that kept Dallas' playoff hopes alive.

He was already limping when he threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to DeMarco Murray with 68 seconds left to lift the Cowboys to a 24-23 victory over the Redskins.

Although the Cowboys have refused to rule Romo out, coach Jason Garrett said Monday they would sign another quarterback as a third option.

The Dallas Morning News reported Tuesday that they had added 41-year-old Jon Kitna, who last played in the NFL with the Cowboys two seasons ago.

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Cigar Emporium - Ci Gusta - Coach - CocoSol - Colombian Emeralds Int. - Crocs
Crystal Casino - Custo Barcelona - David Yurman - Diesel - Dufry - Entre Nous
Ermenegildo Zegna - Eva Boutique - Façonnable - Furla - Gandelman - Gucci - Guess
Guess Kids - Hilfiger Denim - Jewelers Warehouse - Kenneth Cole - Lacoste - La Martina
Louis Vuitton - Longchamp - Michael Kors - Monalisa - Pier Minimarket
Pretty Ballerinas - Ralph Lauren - Rolex - Starbucks - Sunspecs - TAG Heuer - Vilebrequin

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